

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No: Continuation of USSN 09/037,546, filed March 9, 1998
Applicant: James M. Zavislan
Filed: Concurrently herewith
Title: IMAGING SYSTEM USING MULTI-MODE LASER
ILLUMINATION TO ENHANCE IMAGE QUALITY
Examiner: J. Treas Art Unit: 2872
Attorney Docket: ML-0473C

#21A
28 Sep 01
R. Talbot

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the title, please insert --TO-- before "ENHANCE".

In the specification, first paragraph of page 1, rewrite as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/037,546, filed March 9, 1998, and is related to my U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/966,046, filed November 7, 1997 and Provisional Application Serial No. 60/072,334, filed January 23, 1998.

Handwritten: New U.S. Patent No. 6,304,373
Handwritten: New U.S. Patent No. 6,134,009

Please cancel Claims 1-11.

Please rewrite Claims 12, 13 and 14 as follows:

12. (amended) A scanning confocal microscope which comprises a laser providing an incident beam, a beam splitter, a scanner for scanning an image plane in a specimen section in general orthogonal X-Y directions in said plane, said laser being a plural transverse mode laser providing an amplitude distribution having a plurality of lobes in opposing phase relationship to form spaced spots in a focal plane in said section and capable of overlapping spots at one of behind, ahead, or behind and ahead, of said section, and an objective for focusing said spots in said focal plane, a confocal aperture, a photodetector behind said aperture, and optics for focusing return light from the spots deflected by said beam splitter at said aperture.

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